

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-24 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, the specification, the Abstract, and claims 1-11 and 13-15 are amended, claim 12 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 16-24 are added. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner and his Supervisor are thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the February 22, 2007 telephone interview. The points discussed are incorporated herein.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Figures 1-2 of the present application and the corresponding disclosure; and rejected claims 4-7 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Figures 1-2 of the present application and the corresponding disclosure, in view of Liermann (hereinafter "Liermann"), U.S. Patent No. 6,173,593. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, that the location correction device comprises at least one location correction protrusion protruding in a forward direction from a portion in the vicinity of the opening of the receiving part, and at least one location correction recess formed at a rear side of the drawer panel and configured to receive the at least one location correction protrusion inserted therein, wherein the at least one location correction

protrusion and the at least one location correction recess are complementary in shape. As discussed during the February 22 telephone interview, neither Figures 1-2 of the present application and the corresponding disclosure nor Liermann, taken alone or in combination, disclose or suggest such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1.

That is, the Examiner corresponds "ridges that conform to a shaped opening" as corresponding to the claimed location correction means. However, Figures 1-2 of the present application and the corresponding disclosure do not disclose or suggest the claimed at least one location correction protrusion or at least one location correction recess.

Further, Liermann does not disclose or suggest a location correction device that comprises at least one location correction protrusion protruding in a forward direction from a portion in the vicinity of the opening of the receiving part, and at least one location correction recess formed at a rear side of the drawer panel and configured to receive the at least one location correction protrusion inserted therein, wherein the at least one location correction protrusion and the at least one location correction recess are complementary in shape. Rather, Liermann discloses a locking mechanism for securing drawers and cabinets which allows the drawers and cabinets to be only partially opened until the locking mechanism is unlocked. The locking mechanism includes an L-shaped bolt assembly 50 configured to mate with a rectangular aperture 38 formed in a retention mechanism 30. Projection 56 of the bolt assembly 50 is locked in the retention mechanism 30 by a tumbler 40. The bolt member 52 of the bolt assembly 50 is long enough to allow the drawer 70 to be opened to expose combination lock 44.

First, the bolt assembly 50 and retention mechanism 30 are clearly not a location correction device, but merely a locking mechanism. Moreover, there is no disclosure or suggestion that these elements provide any location correction function. Second, the L-shaped bolt assembly 50 and rectangular aperture 38 are not complementary in shape.

Third, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have looked to the complicated locking mechanism of Liermann to solve the problem of correctly locating a detergent drawer in a receiving part in an assembly for supplying detergent in a washing machine. That is, Liermann discloses a locking mechanism for securing drawers and cabinet doors, which has nothing to do with a washing machine. Further, Liermann does not disclose or suggest, and the locking mechanism disclosed by Liermann would not be capable of, addressing the problem solved by the claimed features of independent claim 1, that is, correctly locating a detergent drawer in a receiving part in an assembly for supplying detergent in a washing machine, thereby preventing leaks. Thus, the Examiner's combination is clearly based on impermissible hindsight gleaned from Applicants' own disclosure.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-11 and 13-15, as well as added claim 16, are allowable over Figures 1-2 of the present application and the corresponding disclosure and Liermann, taken alone or in combination, at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

Added claims 17-24 also define over the applied prior art.

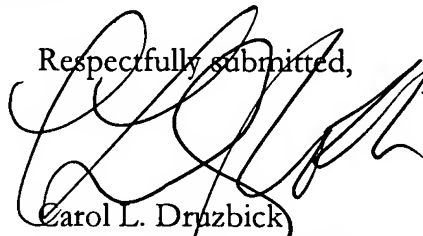
Serial No. **10/720,383**
Reply to Office Action of September 27, 2006

Docket No. **K-0566**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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